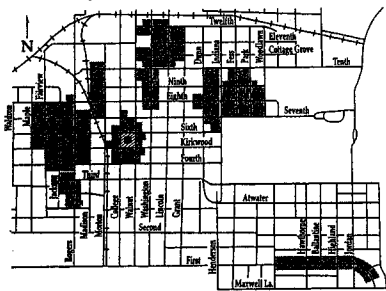


No. 3 North Washington

#### Walking Tours Through Historic Districts



1. West Side
2. Courthouse Square
3. North Washington Street
4. Prospect Hill
5. Vinegar Hill Limestone
6. Cottage Grove
7. North Indiana Avenue
8. University Courts

Additional copies of the walking tour brochures are available at the Monroe County Historical Museum, the Department of Redevelopment, City of Bloomington or from Bloomington Restorations, Inc.

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#### In Appreciation:

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**Bloomington Restorations Inc.**

A FOUNDATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN MONROE COUNTY  
P.O. BOX 1522, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, 47402

June, 1992

The Queen Anne buildings erected by W. N. Showers and J. D. Showers, and the eclectic and Classical Revival buildings erected by their children, remain a remarkable collection of residences in a neighborhood of great architectural integrity. While few buildings are identical, there is a repetition of elements such as porch columns, beveled corners, gable height, roof pitch and shingle and clapboard patterning, that give a visual rhythm and harmony to the streetscape.

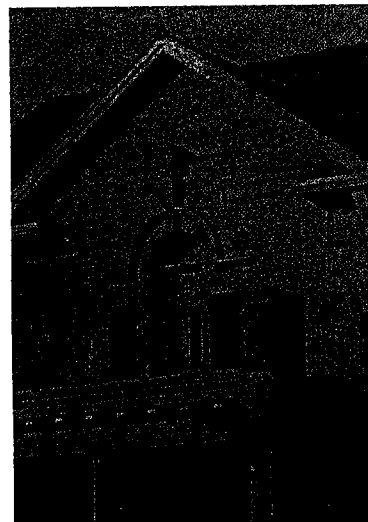
The North Washington Street Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1991. The Morgan house is individually listed on the National Register. More information on North Washington Street and a copy of the National Register nomination, is available in the Indiana Room of the Monroe County Public Library.

At the turn of the century Bloomington boasted a small but growing university, a healthy limestone industry, and most importantly, the Showers Furniture Factory ("the world's largest")—which produced Golden Oak furniture for the nation. In the 1890s the Showers brothers developed a two-block area adjacent to their Walnut Street homes as a residential district for their families and friends. The Showers family built and owned at least eleven of the homes. The Buskirk, Crahan and Matthews, influential businessmen, and the Teters and Myers, prominent in the university, also lived there.

#### North Washington

## A Walk Through the North Washington Historic District

#### Historic Tour Guide No. 3



**Bloomington, Indiana**

**1. Showers-Myers House**  
321 North Washington  
ca. 1900

This house was built by J. D. Showers for his daughter Maude and her husband, Dr. Burton D. Myers, an early dean of the Indiana University medical school. The house is an eclectic combination of Colonial Revival and other styles. Note the Dutch Colonial gambrel roof, the pillars, the dentil moldings, the limestone corner towers, the leaded and beveled windows in the entry, the torch-shaped keystone in the arch of the upper balcony, and the Palladian windows. The tile roof was custom fired at the Bloomfield brick works. The house is pictured here in a ca. 1930s photograph.



**2. Washington Terrace Apartments**  
316 North Washington  
1929

On the southeast corner of 8th and Washington, the Washington Terrace Apartments is a limestone building with wood trim. Elements of the Colonial Revival style can be seen in the Palladian window that tops the entrance. The shutters feature a variety of cut out designs, including half-moons, circles and triangles.



**3. Belden House**  
203 East Eighth Street  
ca. 1870/1900

This wood frame Italianate style house appears to be earlier than most other houses in the area. The decorative wood trim and the Washington Street side bay were added in a remodeling about 1900, when it apparently became a two-family house. The Belden family lived in this house for many years.



**4. 418 North Washington**  
ca. 1900

The beveled corners of this house reveal Queen Anne stylistic influence, but its prevailing symmetry and trim mark it as predominantly Classical Revival. Notice the cornice returns.



**5. 411 North Washington**  
ca. 1915

This ca. 1930s photograph shows the original appearance of this large sprawling Craftsman style bungalow. Many projecting gables with knee braces, multi-paned sash and battered porch posts were typical of the style.



**6. Showers-Bridwell House**  
419 North Washington  
ca. 1890

William Showers built this Queen Anne style structure about 1891. In 1920 Showers sold the house to the Bridwells, who once owned a grocery store on Tenth Street. Notice the siting on the hill, the seven gables, the Queen Anne chimney and the Steamboat Gothic porch added before 1907. Some of the exterior moldings and gingerbread were sacrificed in the 1950s, when aluminum siding was added.



**7. Showers-Allen House**  
427 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This wood frame, Free Classic house was occupied by Lela Showers, the young widow of J. D. Showers' son, Charles. By 1907 the house was occupied by the family of Frank Allen, who was the nephew of J. D. Showers' wife, Belle Allen Showers. The porch features simple columns supporting the porch roof, which is sparsely decorated with geometric woodwork designs.



**8. Seward House**  
420 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This is a charming 1890s cottage, occupied for many years by the W. H. Seward family. Notice the Queen Anne beveled corners, the little tower and the Gothic style gable on the front porch. The alternate use of curved and geometric shingles creates an interesting variety of textures on the front gables.



**9. Showers-Graham House**  
430 North Washington  
ca. 1905

The Showers-Graham house is an early example of the Free Classic style in Bloomington and is an outstanding resource in this district. Careful restoration and painting highlight the two-story Corinthian style columns and the carved garland trim. The rear area was landscaped as a formal walled garden.



**10. Showers-Fields House**  
502 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This Queen Anne house was owned until the turn of the century by W. N. Showers; then it was purchased by the Fields family which lived there for many years. This home has artificial siding, but the Queen Anne details, shown in this ca. 1930s photograph, can still be seen.



**11. Maude Showers House**  
502 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This Queen Anne house was owned at the turn of the century by Maude E. Showers, daughter of J. D. Showers. The ornamentation under the eaves and at the gable on the north side of the house is elaborate but sparingly placed.



**12. Demaree House**  
509 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This Queen Anne house was owned and occupied by the Demaree family from 1892 until the mid 1900s. All that remains of the original exterior decoration is the bracketed wood lintels.



**13. Showers-Teter-Barrett House**  
508 North Washington  
1895

William Showers deeded 508 and 514 North Washington to his two daughters, Nellie and Jennie. This house was given to Nellie, the wife of Sanford Teter. Although both houses have been altered in the rear, the floor plans were originally identical.



**14. Showers-Smith-Matthews House**  
514 North Washington  
1895

This house belonged to Jennie Showers Smith until 1913 when it was sold to Addie Matthews, the widow of quarry owner and state senator W. N. Matthews. Note the similarity to Nellie Showers' home next door. The diamond and fishscale shingle work is identical. Only the front porch differentiates them, this house having a rounded porch, the other having a squared one.



**15. Showers-Freese House**  
522 North Washington  
ca. 1895

This house was built between 1891 and 1898 by the Showers brothers, and was rented from the turn of the century until the First World War by the Freese family. The color scheme highlights such architectural details as the unusual shingle pattern.



**16. 515 North Washington**  
ca. 1890

This Queen Anne style house was owned by the Showers brothers in 1892, but was soon sold. The Walnut Street Church trustees owned it from 1892-1898. Note the similarity of the shingle work to that of other houses on the block. The limestone porch with its square stone columns contrasts with the many wooden porches in the area.



**17. Edwards House**  
521 North Washington  
ca. 1890

This house was owned and occupied by the Edwards family from 1893 to about 1930. Notice the typical elements of the Queen Anne style: "gingerbread" on the gables, patterns of shingle and clapboard siding, an asymmetrical layout. These combine with the classical influence of the porch columns and railing.



**18. Strain House**  
527 North Washington  
ca. 1900

This was the residence of Dr. Homer Strain. It retains some Queen Anne influence in the beveled corners and bays, but reveals elements of the Free Classic style in its columns, trim and diamond-paned sash.



**19. Batman-Brown House**  
526 North Washington  
ca. 1890

Originally built by the Batman family, this sprawling one story frame house, in the Queen Anne cottage style, became the residence of chemistry professor and researcher Oliver Brown. Note the dentil molding, the charming attic ventilator, and the importance of the roof in the design.



**20. 528 North Washington**

This Free Classic style house once had a large wrap-around porch as seen in this ca. 1930s photograph. The original street lamps and neighboring houses can also be seen in this historic photograph.



**21. Morgan House**  
532 North Walnut  
1892

This house is an outstanding example of Queen Anne style in wood frame construction, with inventive use of different siding materials, carved designs, and elaborate chimneys. This large Victorian structure, was built from plans published in a catalogue by a Chicago architectural firm. The exterior of the building was restored by Bloomington Restorations, Inc., in 1980; the interior was completed by the purchaser of the property after it was sold by BRI.



**22. Teter House**  
528 North Walnut  
ca. 1913

Chicago architects Lowe and Bollenbacher designed this house in 1913 for Sanford Teter, an officer of the Showers Brothers Furniture Company, and for his wife, Nellie Showers Teter, who became the first female trustee of Indiana University. Note the dark headers and light stretchers in the brickwork of this Georgian Revival style house. The dormer windows are arched, and the guttering has been built into the eaves.



**23. Buskirk-Showers House**  
520 North Walnut  
ca. 1897

This Queen Anne style house was built for Philip Buskirk, president of the First National Bank and president of the Empire Stone Company. A later owner, William Graham, apparently exchanged houses with William Showers. The exterior has been altered little since Buskirk built it. Note the floral carvings on the stone chimney and porch. The house is decorated with tinwork of floral garlands in relief above the porch and windows.



The buildings shown here are representative and are not intended to be an exhaustive list of historic resources in the district.

Please respect the privacy of the owners by viewing all listed buildings from the street.